

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01055 021123Z

51 L

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 EB-07 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /071 W

----- 013979

R 021030Z JUN 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 998

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1055

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD, OPS AND INCO

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-CI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET RESPONSE ON MAY 5 AND 7 AIR CORRIDOR
INCIDENTS

REF: USBERLIN 924

1. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR KHOTULEV CALLED ON POLAD
MAY 30 TO DELIVER, INTER ALIA, RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR
HILLENBRAND'S MAY 12 REQUEST TO AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV
(PARA 11, REFTTEL) TO INQUIRE INTO MAY 5 AND 7 INCIDENTS
RESPECTIVELY IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL AIR CORRIDORS.
KHOTULEV SAID THAT "COMPETENT ORGANS" HAD COMPLETED
STUDY, AND HAD VERIFIED BOTH INCIDENTS. ON MAY 5, AT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 01055 021123Z

1041, SOVIET AIRCRAFT HAD CROSSED AIR CORRIDOR ON NORMAL

FLIGHT ACCORDING TO PLAN--CROSSING MANEUVER BEING UNAVOIDABLE. IN SECOND CASE, ON MAY 7, SOVIET FIGHTER HAD FLOWN IN CORRIDOR TO IDENTIFY FOREIGN AIRCRAFT BECAUSE "AIR SITUATION" WAS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. AFTER COMPLETING IDENTIFICATION, SOVIET AIRCRAFT HAD LEFT CORRIDOR IMMEDIATELY. KHOTULEV STRESSED THAT IN BOTH INSTANCES SOVIET AIRCRAFT HAD CROSSED OR ENTERED CORRIDORS CAREFULLY, SAFELY, AND UNDER RADAR CONTROL. HE ADDED THAT, WHILE SOVIET AIRCRAFT HAD RIGHT TO USE AIR CORRIDORS, THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO HINDER OR IMPAIR ALLIED TRAFFIC.

2. POLAD RESPONDED THAT ALLIES DID NOT BELIEVE PURPOSE OF MAY 5 AND 7 SOVIET FLIGHTS WAS TO HARASS ALLIED TRAFFIC; WE LIKED TO THINK THAT DAYS WHEN THIS SORT OF THING HAPPENED WERE NOW PAST. ALLIED CONCERN WAS RATHER WITH ASSURING SAFETY IN CORRIDORS. WE WISHED TO MAKE SURE THAT DANGEROUS INCIDENTS SUCH AS THESE DID NOT RECUR. IT WAS HARD TO BELIEVE THAT DANGEROUS FLYING SUCH AS OCCURRED MAY 5 COULD BE AUTHORIZED. AS TO MAY 7 FLIGHT, POLAD SAID THERE WERE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES IN BASC FOR DETERMINING IDENTITY OF AIRCRAFT FLYING IN CORRIDORS, AND THAT INVESTIGATORY FLIGHTS WERE NOT NECESSARY. AS PERSONAL REFLECTION, POLAD SAID THAT HE COULD WELL UNDERSTAND THAT IF SOVIET AIR AUTHORITIES HAD MADE A MISTAKE THEY WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ADMIT IT; IMPORTANT THING WAS TO PREVENT SIMILAR INCIDENTS.

3. KHOTULEV SPECULATED THAT IN MAY 7 CASE BASC MAY NOT HAVE BEEN OPERATING PROPERLY. SOVIET MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT NEITHER INCIDENT HAD BEEN DANGEROUS. POLAD REPEATED ALLIED EXPECTATION THAT CLOSE FLYING BE AVOIDED IN FUTURE. GEORGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BERLIN QUADRIPARTITE MATTERS, BORDER INCIDENTS, AIR ROUTES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USBERL01055
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750191-1113
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750688/aaaadctc.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 USBERLIN 924
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <30 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET RESPONSE ON MAY 5 AND 7 AIR CORRIDOR INCIDENTS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UR, (HILLENBRAND, MARTIN J), (ABRASIMOV, P A)
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006